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CIA No. 4695
20 April 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR : Mrs. Evelyn Colbert
Chief, Southeast Asia Division, IIR
Department of State

SUBJECT : VC/NVA Use of Cambodian Territory

Attached is the information requested by you to be used in the preparation of a paper for USCIB on the VC/NVA use of Cambodian territory. This information is in two sections. The first section, "VC Base Areas in Cambodia as Identified in Interrogation Reports," is based on available reports of interrogation of NVA prisoners or returnees and rallies. This section is classified ~~SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~ because it contains information obtained from NPIC reports to assess the reliability of the interrogation reports. But if the NPIC information is not used the remaining information is classified only ~~SECRET~~.

The second section is classified ~~SECRET NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~ because about half of the Department of Defense reports are so classified and the ~~NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~ classification of these reports probably could not be easily declassified. Most of the photographic analyses used in this section of the report are ~~CONFIDENTIAL NO FOREIGN DISSEM~~.

The base areas referred to in these reports include base camps, supply bases, food storage areas, training centers, hospitals and other areas. No attempt has been made to set up a definition of base areas; some of the areas are not described in detail in the basic reports and are referred to only as "rice depot," "base camp" and so on, while others are described in detail and some are accompanied by sketch maps. A brief description of each base or facility is given in the tables accompanying each section.

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Chief, Trade and Services Division

ORR/T/TR: (20 April 1967)

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VC Base Areas in Cambodia
as Identified in Interrogation Reports

Available reports of interrogation of NVA prisoners or returnees and ralliers were examined to obtain reports of such personnel who knew of VC or NVA base areas in Cambodia and could identify the locations of these areas precisely enough to enable them to be located on maps. As a result 9 documents containing information on 13 base areas were found.* Of the 13 base areas given in the documents, 10 were described as being located in areas that also are covered by NPIC studies of aerial photographs. Of these 10 base areas noted in the documents, only two were reported to be in locations that fell within a mile of any signs of suspect VC activities as noted by NPIC reports, although all were no more than 6 miles away from such suspect activities.

The base areas described in the nine documents are located in three general areas of Cambodia, each of which contains three or four of the base areas described by the sources. The three general areas are located:

- (1.) Along Route 19 near the border in Ratanakiri Province.
- (2.) East of Snoul, between Snoul and the border in Kratie Province.
- (3.) In the Mekong River area as it crosses the border in Prey Veng and Kandal Provinces.

* See Table

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VC Base Areas in Cambodia

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Seventy-seven possible VC or NVA base areas in Cambodia [REDACTED] were compared with NPIC studies of aerial photographs.** Twenty-seven of these base areas were located in parts of Cambodia apparently not covered by NPIC studies. Of the remaining 50 base areas [REDACTED] 19 were reported to be in locations that fell within one mile of the locations noted in NPIC reports, another 21 were from 1 to 10 miles of the NPIC locations, while another 6 were over 10 miles away. Four areas were not identified precisely enough to be located on maps. The areas are shown in the following tabulation according to type of base area.

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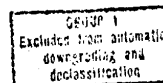
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Types and Numbers of Base Areas	Distance to Nearest Possible or Suspect Insurgent Activity			In Areas Not Studied	Could Not Locate
	Up to 1 mile	One to 10 miles	Over 10 miles		
Base Camps	29	9	8	2	6
Supply Base	7	0	3	0	4
Food Storage Areas	9	2	3	0	4
Training Centers	7	0	4	0	3
Hospitals	4	0	1	0	3
Other	21	8	2	4	7
Totals	<u>77</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>27</u>

It seems evident from all available information that the VC and NVA are using many parts of Cambodia as base areas of the type shown above. It further seems probable that the most important of these areas are along the Cambodian - South Vietnamese border, such as the Nam Lyr Mountain area and the area near Chu Pong Mountain. However, all available intelligence does not determine the

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exact location or degree to which each area is used nor the type of activity or base located in the area. Furthermore, one type of source of information generally does not confirm other types. For example, none of the areas located by NVA captives and ralliers or returnees were confirmed (that is they were about 2 or more miles away - determined by a comparison of coordinates) [REDACTED]

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assigned

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Request from State for Support on Cambodia

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1. I attended a meeting, along with [redacted] OCI, and [redacted] ORR, at 11 o'clock, 24 March in the office of Evelyn Colbert, Chief, Southeast Asia Division, INR, State. Also present were representatives from DIA headed by [redacted] (11-85808). Miss Colbert called the meeting to secure aid in the preparation of a paper on VC/NVA use of Cambodian territory.

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2. USIB has authorized the preparation of this paper and expects it to be submitted to USIB for review and approval within six weeks. Miss Colbert explained that this schedule will permit about five weeks for drafting of the paper. The paper may take two forms: [redacted]

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The first paper might include sources of intelligence such as photography not included in the second paper, but sources which will create release problems must not be used.

3. The paper or papers will concentrate only on those aspects of Cambodian and VC/NVA relations which constitute a breach of international law. They would include the VC/NVA use of Cambodian territory for: a. personnel infiltration, b. sanctuary, refuge and bivouac, and c. base areas. The time frame for the establishment of such use was quite well agreed at the meeting to extend from the fall of 1964 to the present.

4. Representatives from the DIA assured the group that they have an excellent document retrieval system, and that in any event much work has been done by the DIA and MACV toward documenting the case against Cambodia. [redacted] said that he would be glad to cooperate with DIA, make documents available, and review the reports and materials assembled by the DIA. I said that ORR has done some

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work on base areas in preparation for the recently-completed SNIE and for the purpose of evaluating the recent MACV report on this subject. I said further, however, that I could not commit ORR to extensive work on this subject or to provide support on the other subjects under consideration. I promised, nevertheless, to bring this project to the attention of the Chief, Trade and Services Division upon his return to duty on 28 March, and to request that he contact Miss Colbert regarding the extent of ORR participation in it.

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Chief, Transportation Branch

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